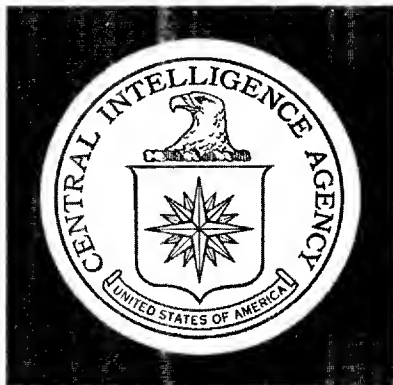


Top Secret

DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Intelligence Memorandum

RECENT ACTIVITIES IN NORTH VIETNAM
SOUTH OF THE 20TH PARALLEL

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Top Secret

2 July 1968

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
2 July 1968

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Recent Activities in North Vietnam
South of the 20th Parallel

Summary

25X1 [redacted] North Vietnam continues to expand and increase truck parks, storage areas, and supply depots along the main lines of communication (LOC's) south of the 20th Parallel. There has also been a continuing effort to improve roads and construct bypasses in numerous areas south of the 20th Parallel. Since early June the North Vietnamese have built two new road segments -- with a total length of 15 miles -- into the central portion of the DMZ. Work is continuing also on Route 1036, the new road started in January 1968 that runs from Dong Hoi in North Vietnam toward the western end of the DMZ. The road is now within a few hundred yards of the border.

25X1 [redacted] truck sightings fell below the high figures recorded the previous week, but were still comparable to the weekly averages that have been noted since 1 April 1968. [redacted]

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25X1 [redacted]
[redacted] traffic moving southward through Mu Gia Pass into Laos confirm that a high level of traffic continues to move south of the 20th Parallel. Through 20 June an average of 20 trucks a day moved southward through Mu Gia Pass, compared with only three a day in June of 1967.

Note: This memorandum was produced solely by CIA. It was prepared jointly by the Office of Economic Research and the Office of Current Intelligence and was coordinated with the Director's Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs.

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The North Vietnamese conducted daily MIG fighter-interceptor operations south of the 20th Parallel

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On 26 June a MIG-21 was downed by US aircraft near Vinh.

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There is no evidence that the North Vietnamese have started to pave the remaining unpaved portion of the main runway at Bai Thuong.

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Logistic Activity

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[redacted] North Vietnam's logistic network south of the 20th Parallel reveals a continued effort to expand and increase truck parks, storage areas, and supply depots along the main lines of communication (LOC's). Increased construction activity -- buildings, some underground storage facilities and revetted areas [redacted] at the Tien Luong Transshipment Area on Route 110 west of Quang Khe, along Route 15 between Routes 151 and 152, and along Route 72 between Phuc Thuy and Vinh.

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[redacted] the junction of Routes 7, 72, and 15 and the Song Ca River, about 30 miles northwest of Vinh, reveals a new moderate-sized transshipment area. [redacted]

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[redacted] show heavy watercraft activity on the Song Ca, possibly indicating that some of the trucks noted moving west on Route 7, which leads to northern Laos, are transshipping their goods at Phuc Thuy for movement south along the Song Ca or Route 72.

3. A new water and road transshipment area has been noted about four miles west of Vinh along Route 15 and a branch of the Song Ca River (see Map 1). Heavy track activity was apparent and a large concentration of watercraft was observed east of the area. This transshipment point can be used in support of traffic moving south from Phuc Thuy along the Song Ca or Route 72.

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[redacted] motor vehicles sighted and destroyed fell well below the high figures recorded the previous week, but were still comparable to the high weekly averages noted since 1 April 1968.

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[redacted] traffic through the Mu Gia Pass confirm that a high level of logistic movement continues south of the 20th Parallel. In previous years, southbound truck traffic has always dropped off in May with the advent of the rainy season. This year, although less truck traffic moved in May than in previous months in 1968, traffic was still measurably higher than in May of last year. Furthermore, the average number of trucks [redacted] was almost 20 percent higher than in May. Through 20 June an average of 20 trucks a day moved southbound through Mu Gia Pass compared to only three per day in June 1967.

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Road Construction

9. The North Vietnamese are continuing to improve roads and construct bypasses in areas south of the 19th Parallel, including near the DMZ. In the central portion of the DMZ the North Vietnamese have recently pushed two new road segments totaling 15 miles. One road extends from Route 1022 (an extension of Route 102), enters the DMZ, and terminates about 300 yards south of a tributary of

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[redacted]

the Ben Hai River (see Map 2). The second road runs directly from Route 102 southwest to Route 1022. It uses a two-mile segment of 1022 and then turns southwest for about two miles where it terminates in the DMZ. Both roads are 10 to 12 feet wide. The first road does not yet appear to be heavily used, but the second road apparently is carrying a heavy volume of traffic. These new road extensions indicate that the enemy is continuing to improve his capability to infiltrate men and materials directly through the DMZ.

10. Near the western end of the DMZ, work is continuing on Route 1036, the new road started in January 1968 that runs southwest from Dong Hoi toward Laos. The North Vietnamese apparently intend to make Route 1036 a major infiltration link into the Laotian Panhandle to supplement Routes 137 and 15 further north. Work has progressed to within a few hundred yards of the border and within 25 miles of connecting with Route 92 in the Laotian Panhandle. There is some evidence that Route 1036 is being surfaced with gravel to give it a wet-weather capability.

[redacted]

shows improvements to portions of Route 137, the most important infiltration route into Laos during wet-weather and to Route 72, which is being repaired and improved for possible use as an alternate to Route 15.

Air Operations

12. The North Vietnamese conducted daily MIG fighter-interceptor operations south of the 20th Parallel [redacted]

[redacted] [redacted]

There is still no evidence, however, that the North Vietnamese have started to pave the remaining unpaved portion of the main runway at Bai Thuong.

13. Possible defense improvements in the Bai Thuong area suggest the North Vietnamese plan to

continue utilizing this facility for southern MIG
patrols.

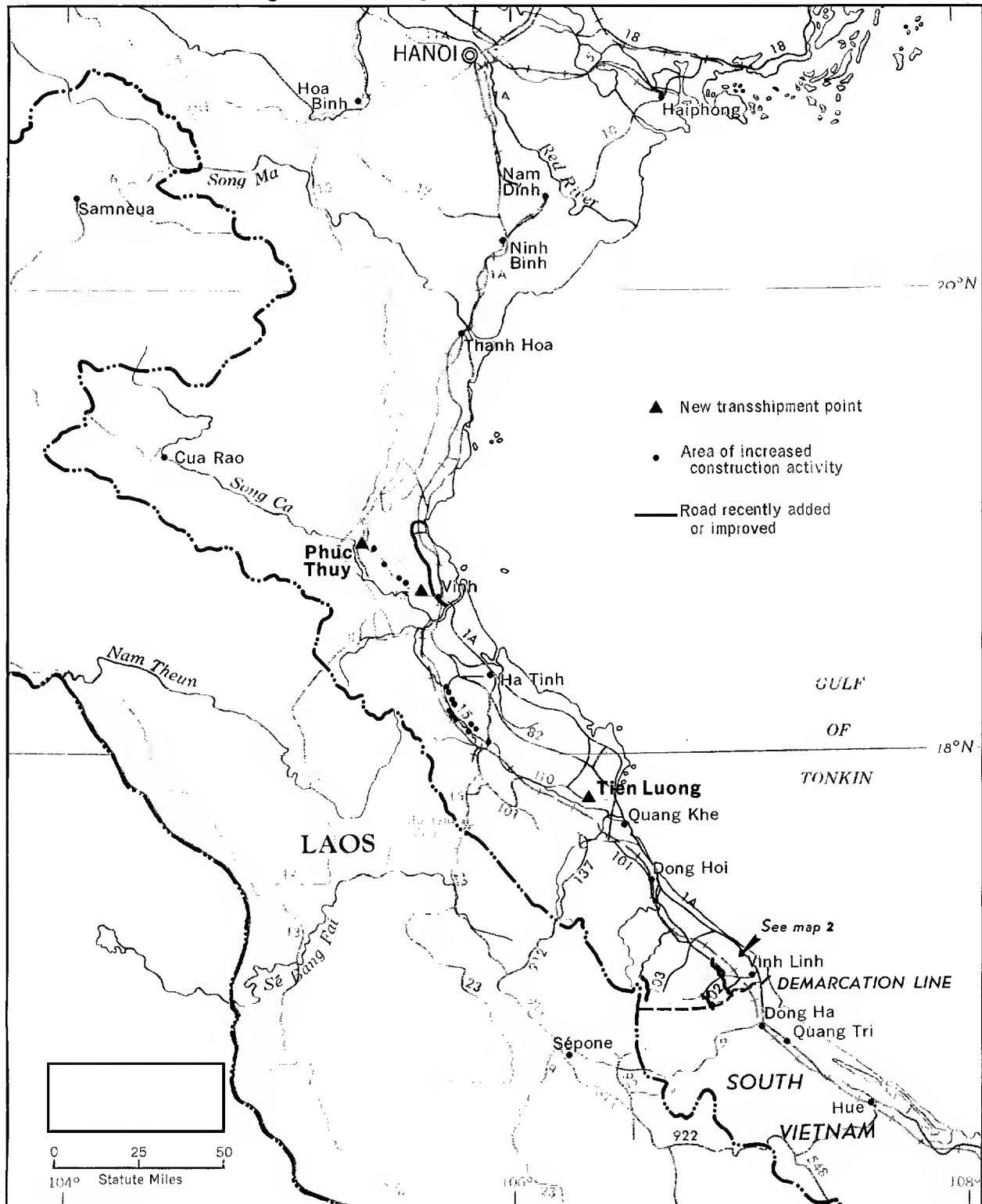
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14. There were no new significant developments reported regarding the North Vietnamese helicopter situation. North Vietnamese aircraft order of battle remains unchanged from last week's report.

NORTH VIETNAM: Logistic Activity South of the 20th Parallel

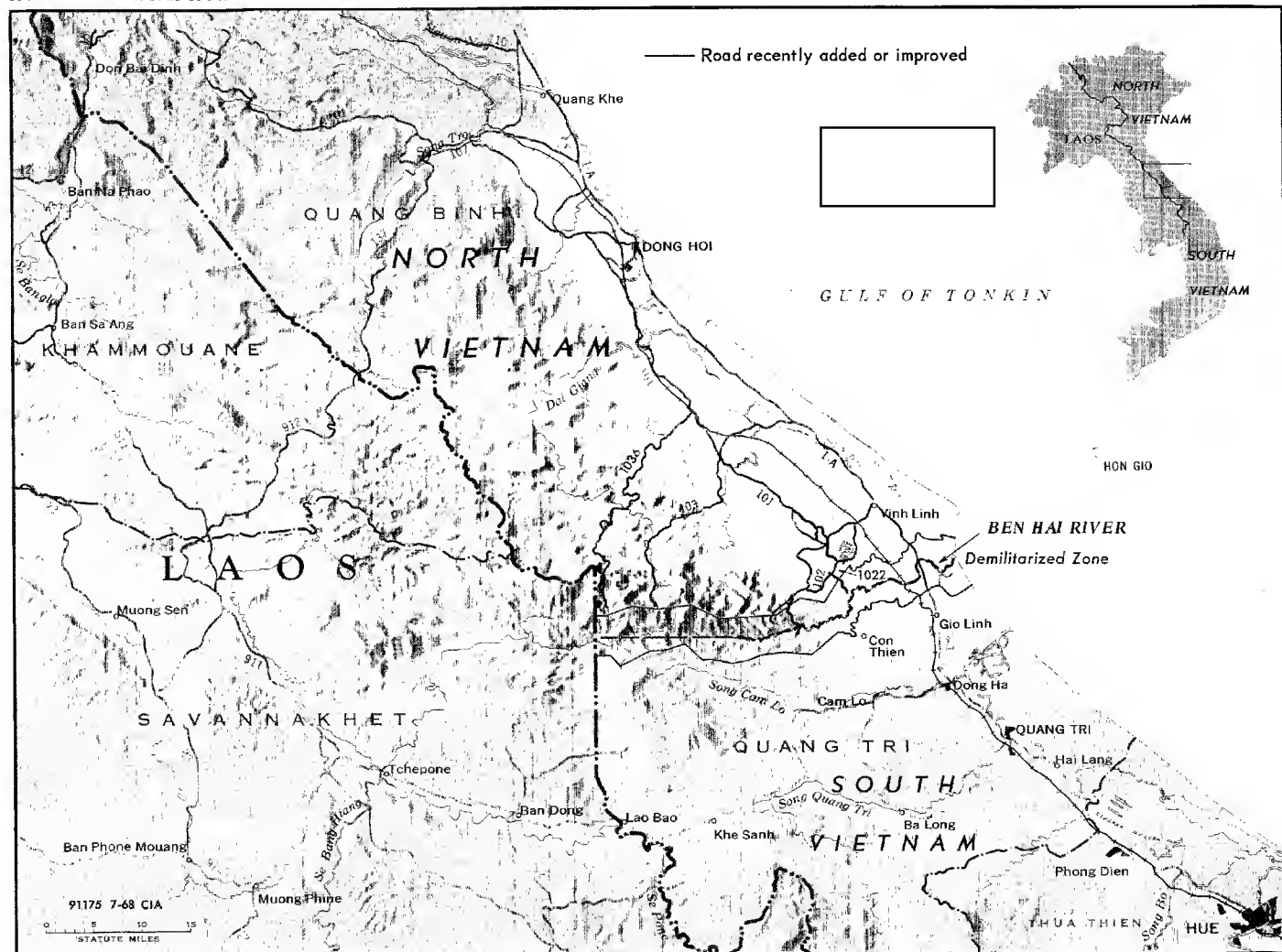
MAP 1



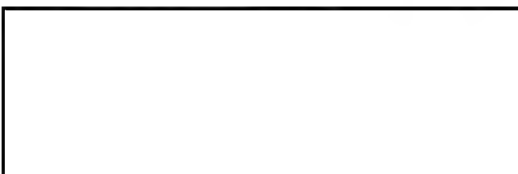
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NORTH VIETNAM: New Roads in DMZ Area

MAP 2



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